

**Minutes of Academic Council
January 13, 1998**

Members Present

Alnwick, K.
Aspevig, E.
Bardecki, M.
Black, M.
Booth, M.
de Haan, R.
DeLuca, A.
Dewson, M.
Easton, J.
Elder, D.
Finn, M.
Friesen, E.
Frost, A.
Garnette, I.
Grayson, L.
Haines, R.
Harrison, L.
Kittler, A. for S. Heath
Kapp, R.
Keeble, R.
Kennedy, D.
Koc, M.
Lajeunesse, C.
Levine, I.
Malinski, R.
Maskow, M.
McIntosh, C.
Mendelson, R.
Miller, M.
Mock, D.
Monro, J.
Morgan, H.
Morriss, M.
Nam, S.
Pearce, J.
Pettypiece, A.
Sam Foh, C.
Sandys, J.
Shaw, D.
McGowan, J. for D. Sher
Silver, S.
Smith, D.
Tindugan, M.
Trubic, J.
Wallace, R.
Williams, S.
Zamaria, C.
Zaver, N.

Members Absent

Creery, M.
Cukier, W. (Regrets)
Ho, D.
Kelley, A.
Northwood, D.
O'Connor, E.
Richard, M. (Regrets)
Sharifi, F.
Shukla, N.
Wilson, L.
Wu, J.

1. President's Report

The President began his report by reminding Council that we are now able to officially celebrate Ryerson's 50th anniversary. He noted that there will be a formal reception as part of the celebration in the quarters of the Lieutenant Government at Queen's Park in early February. A huge celebration will be held in the quadrangle on September 10 to which everyone will be invited.

He then turned to Minister Eves' recent announcement that funding for universities in Ontario would remain stable in 1998-99 and would increase 1% in the subsequent year. A copy of the statement is appended to these minutes. He cautioned members of Council that what this actually will mean for Ryerson in 1998-99 and the subsequent year is unclear. For example, last year the same commitment was made but Ryerson lost between \$600-\$700 thousand dollars because of shifting of grants between operating and research envelopes.

With reference to the issue of student tuition he noted that the Eves' statement does not make any comment on the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). In the past year there have been a number of government decisions with regard to OSAP which have a negative impact on students. For example, OSAP policy previously allowed students to earn some \$1700 dollars income on a part-time basis before this income was taken into account in calculating OSAP eligibility. This threshold has now been reduced to \$600 dollars.

In light of this and other changes to OSAP which have had a negative impact on students, in the last week he has met with the President of RYESAC, Angelo DeLuca and the President of CESAR, Claude Sam Foh. Together they have prepared a letter to the Minister requesting that the changes in OSAP eligibility rules be reversed and indicating that there will be a future communication regarding the overall issue of student indebtedness and or loan forgiveness levels, and their link to accessibility.

In the Good of the University portion of the meeting Council will be asked to consider approving this draft letter to the Minister of Education and Training.

He noted that by next Monday Ryerson must provide the Minister with our views on how the global university funding budget should be distributed.

He reminded members of Council of the planned January 28 Student Day of Protest and that the Vice President, Academic had sent a letter to all faculty requesting that students who participate in the day of protest not be penalized.

2. The Good of the University

A. DeLuca, Vice Chair of Council, assumed the chair for this portion of the meeting. He then turned the meeting over to R. Crow, Executive Director, University Advancement, to make a presentation on the 1996 Graduate Survey and its results.

A report regarding this survey is appended to these minutes.

After the presentation, D. Shaw asked whether anything is being done to make the services of the Career Centre more accessible to students. She noted that when she was a student it really was necessary to go to the Centre and to speak to its members in order to take maximum advantage of its services.

L. Grayson replied that work is being done in this area. Ryerson has introduced a capacity for on-line job postings. There is a career fair and Ryerson conducts workshops on resumé and interview techniques.

D. Shaw asked whether in addition to these initiatives Ryerson is also considering doing outreach services focussed on the needs of specific departments.

L. Grayson replied that currently, this is not in the plans for the Career Centre.

N. Zaver noted certificate students were not surveyed. He asked whether they will be included next time.

R. Crow replied that he has been in consultation with the Dean of Continuing Education about surveying students who pursue certificate programs in the evening. For that cohort of students, a different kind of survey instrument will be required because the reasons for students to take courses within certificates and to pursue certificates often are quite different from the reasons that students take degree programs.

The Vice Chair of Council then recognized the President and asked him to comment on the draft letter to Minister Johnson, which he was now placing before Council.

In speaking to the need for Ryerson to send such a letter to the Minister, the President recounted the changes to OSAP policy that have harmed current students. These include reduction in the income threshold allowed during the school year, such that a recalculation of OSAP eligibility will result if income levels exceed the threshold; the fact that part-time students are no longer eligible for OSAP and must seek Canada Student Loan Support; a provision that students who return to studies after a period away from them must still pay interest on outstanding student loans while they are in school; a shift to a 60/40 pattern of payment between the fall and winter terms of OSAP monies, rather than the 80/20 split that used to prevail in the past.

After this brief presentation the chair asked Council if it was willing to change the agenda of the meeting in order to consider this proposal. Council agreed unanimously.

It was moved by C. Lajeunesse and seconded by C. Sam Foh that

Academic Council approve the draft letter to Minister Johnson regarding OSAP.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

J. McGowan was recognized to speak about the day of protest. He stated that the real purpose of the day of protest is to increase student awareness of particular concern of student leaders about the prospect of income contingent repayment plan for student loans. Given problems with debt

levels and privatization in the external environment these shifts represent an undue burden on students. He asked that students who seek five minutes of time with a class to speak to issues to be addressed during the days of protest be allowed the time to do so. He also expressed thanks to the President and Vice President, Academic and others for their support of student efforts in the day of protest.

S. Williams noted with respect to the report of media coverage highlights in the Ryerson Achievement Report that the reference to Kathy Crowe having been a Social Work graduate is incorrect. Kathy Crowe actually is a graduate of the Nursing program.

R. Haines expressed concern with an aspect of the OSAP situation which appears so far not to have been addressed. Ryerson continues to follow the practice of charging interest on student tuition fees not paid by a certain date at the commencement of a period of study. He suggested that this was an unfair burden in the light of the fact that OSAP does not pay all of its monies at the beginning of the year when fees are due. He cited the example of one student who has had to pay \$50 dollars in interest while he waits for the second OSAP payment. He noted as well that such interest is not charged in some other jurisdictions.

L. Grayson replied that she shares the concern expressed by Mr. Haines but noted that Ryerson's practice in making fees payable at a particular time and of charging a penalty when fees are not paid on time is consistent with the practice that prevails at all other Ontario universities. Moreover it probably is necessary to ensure that tuition fees are paid on time or as early as possible. Absent such provisions patterns of payment might vary greatly and students who pay when fees are due would be in effect penalized relative to those who do not.

R. Haines replied that while he recognizes that Ryerson has a cash flow problem he wanted to stress that the whole point of his comment is that students have a cash flow problem too, one that Ryerson causes.

L. Grayson replied that there really is no easy answer to the problem of ensuring effective collection of tuition fees.

A. Pettypiece spoke in support of R. Haines statement and asked L. Grayson to report on the amount of interest Ryerson earns as a result of charging a penalty for late fee payment.

L. Grayson said that she would obtain that information and provide it for the next meeting.

C. Lajeunesse expressed his view that if there is no incentive for payment of tuition fees by a definite date, fees collection would almost certainly become a significant problem. Students who pay on time would be penalized relative to students who exploited the situation by deferring payment.

S. Nam commented on accessibility to the Financial Aid Office. He stated that the wait in line at the OSAP office is unacceptably long, sometime stretching to a full two hours, and that this level of service simply is not adequate. Moreover, there ought to be a simpler way than waiting in line for students to check on whether their loans are in.

L. Grayson replied that there are seven staff available in that office to serve students who have to resolve issues regarding OSAP. At this beginning of term, the principal difficulty is students who go to the OSAP office at this time of the year usually have difficult problems which are pressing and need to be dealt with as quickly as possible. Dealing with complex and pressing problems for individual students can take time. In the interest of trying to minimize the waits of individual students, however, the Awards office has introduced a numbering system to allow students to make judgements about when they have to be in the line and when they are likely to be served.

She also advised Council that she will review practices being followed in the Awards office once again to see how they might in some ways be improved.

H. Morgan commented that while, as a student his ideas might seem to be somewhat heretical, he does believe in the principle that if students earn more they should be expected to pay more for their education. Some of the shifts in government policy, in his view are not entirely wrong.

3. Minutes of the December 2, 1997 Meeting

It was moved by J. Sandys and seconded by M. Black that the minutes as circulated be adopted.

CARRIED.

In response to a question regarding the review of the "Reedyk" policy and the process of consideration of further revisions to that policy, the President reported that revised proposals will be coming back to Academic Council before going forward to the Board.

4. Business arising out of the minutes

There was no business arising out of the minutes.

5. Correspondence

The letter from Brock University which was circulated with the agenda was received for information.

6. Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Departmental and Divisional Councils

Course Change Forms Respecting Changes To the JOUD (Journalism) program.

These were received for information.

In addition, the Vice President, Academic reported to Council his approval of a proposal from the School of Business Management that the place in the curriculum of Management 402 and Management 526 be switched to provide for more appropriate sequence of material. He stated that this proposal was approved by the Business Council in good time but, for reasons that are not known, failed to reach his office. Nevertheless, while the change is minor it is important and

simple to implement, so that he was confident of bringing the change to Council in this informal manner.

7. Reports of Committees

Report # 132 of the Academic Standards Committee

1. Interpretation of the Policy on Minors

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by D. Shaw that:

in situations where courses within a Minor are designated as professionally-related in some programs but as professional in others, the relevant school(s) or department(s) be allowed to request Academic Council to authorize not more than two one-term professional courses (or equivalent) to be counted towards the Minor.

This proposal was the subject of an extended and wide ranging discussion.

E. Aspevig confirmed with the Vice President, Academic that the Academic Standards committee will closely monitor proposals for Minors to ensure that the intent of the Minors Policy is reflected when two one-term professional courses (or equivalent) are authorized for counting toward a Minor.

J. Monro suggested that the proposed interpretation guideline might result in more than one compulsory course being allowed for a minor and therefore might dramatically change the meaning of minors at Ryerson.

D. Mock commented this really was not the case and asked that Professor Monro discuss this issue with him subsequent to the meeting. He did stress that the proposal before Council does not change any existing minor and a change to any existing minor would require separate and explicit approval of Council.

E. Aspevig expressed the concern about the possibility of double counting of courses as credits.

D. Mock replied that this would not be possible if the proposal before Council will carry.

The proposal then CARRIED with 2 opposed and 7 abstentions.

2. Proposed Minor in Human Resources Management

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by A. Kittler that

Academic Council endorse the proposed Minor in Human Resources Management.

CARRIED.

3. Proposed Minor in Multimedia

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by I. Levine that

Academic Council endorse the Multimedia Minor and its implementation in the Theatre (Technical Production) and Radio and Television Arts program.

M. Morriss noted that course descriptions for some of the courses in the proposed Minor appear not to be included in the information before Council.

I. Levine replied that one of the reasons that the details of some courses are not supplied is that by the time some of the planned courses are actually mounted the content will change because fields concerned are so fast moving.

A. Kittler commented that as a IT professional she believes that it would be inappropriate to require too much detail in course outlines in situations like the one before Council because the fields do change so quickly.

Several students spoke in support of the Proposed Minor.

The proposal CARRIED.

4. Curricular Revisions to the Program in Graphic Communications Management

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by M. Black that

Academic Council approve the revisions to the B. Tech. Program in Graphic Communications Management.

D. Shaw expressed personal support for the proposal and noted that the proposal also has very strong support among Graphic Communications Management students and among student members of Academic Council.

The Chair noted the presence at the meeting of a large number of Graphic Communications Management students.

The proposal CARRIED.

5. Entrance Requirement for the Accounting, Business Information Systems, and Marketing Management Options of the Business Management Program.

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by J. Monro that proposals a), b) and c) which follow were moved by D. Mock and seconded by J. Monro

a) Accounting Option

With reference to the Accounting Option, it is proposed that in order to enter the accounting option in semester 3, students must have attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.33 (C+) in ACC 100 and 406, BIS 100, QMS 102 and 202, and ECN 104, and ASC recommends

that Academic Council endorse the entrance requirement proposed for the Accounting option.

R. de Haan supported this move towards recognizing the importance of increasing the standards of the Accounting Program. She added, however, that she does hope that this is the first step. In the Fall she expressed concern about the standards of this option. The proposal addresses part of the issue but there are other issues that need to be addressed. It would be interesting if this could somehow be incorporated into the alumni surveys at some point, to find out what the accounting alumni feel about the strengths and weaknesses of the program.

D. Mock replied to R. de Haan by saying that at the presentation to Academic Standards the Dean indicated that this is just one of a number of steps being taken to address the curricular questions associated with the accounting option.

CARRIED.

b) Business Information System Option

It is proposed that in order to enter the BIS Option in semester 3, students must have attained a grade of at least C+ in BIS 100, and ASC recommends

that Academic Council endorse the entrance requirement proposed for the Business Information Systems option.

CARRIED.

c) Marketing Management Option

It is proposed that in order to enter the Marketing Management option in semester 3, students must have attained a grade of at least C+ in MKT 100, and ASC recommends

that Academic Council endorse the entrance requirements proposed for the Marketing Management option.

CARRIED.

6. Prerequisite Change in the Midwifery Program

It was proposed that Midwifery students must attain a grade of at least C in MWF 010: Topics in Biological Science before proceeding to MWF 201: Reproductive Physiology. It was noted that these proposals are being presented concurrently at the Senates of McMaster and Laurentian

Universities, Ryerson's partners in the Midwifery program.

It was moved by D. Mock and seconded by J. Sandys

that Academic Council endorse the proposed prerequisite change in the Midwifery program.

CARRIED.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.